

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 01088 251014Z

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SSC-01 /021 W

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1407

UNCLAS HELSINKI 1088

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, FI

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: TAISTO TAHKAMAA

1. FINLAND'S NEW MINISTER OF DEFENSE IS RAISTO TOIVO JOHANNES TAHKAMAA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM THE CENTER PARTY. THIS IS HIS FIRST CABINET POSITION.

2. BORN DEC 11, 1924 IN PARAINEN, TAHKAMAA GRADUATED AS AN AGROLOGIST FROM THE SWEDISH-LANGUAGE HIGHER AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN 1951. HE PURSUED A CAREER IN AGRICULTURE AND HAS HAD HIS OWN FARM SINCE 1971.

3. TAHKAMAA HAS LONG BEEN ACTIVE IN CENTER PARTY AFFAIRS AND SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF HIS PARTY'S SOUTHWEST FINLAND YOUTH ORGANIZATION IN 1958-61. HE WAS FIRST ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT IN 1970. IN A RECENT INTERVIEW HE SAID HE BELONGS TO NEITHER THE KARJALAINEN NOR THE VIROLAINEN FACTION OF HIS PARTY, ALTHOUGH HE JOINED ELEVEN OTHER CENTER PARTY MEMBERS IN OPPOSING THE CURRENT LAND COMPENSATION BILL BACKED BY PARTY CHAIRMAN VIROLAINEN. HOWEVER, HE EXPECTED HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE CABINET WOULD HEAL THIS DIVISION. AT THE TIME OF HIS APPOINTMENT, TAHKAMAA WAS ON THE FINANCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF PARLIAMENT.

4. A VETERAN OF THE 1941-44 CONTINUATION WAR, TAHKAMAA RECEIVED THE FREEDOM MEDAL, 2ND CLASS. HE
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PAGE 02 HELSIN 01088 251014Z

IS A CORPORAL IN THE RESERVES.

5. TAHKAMAA IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER RIITTA-LEANA ROKULAHTI. THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN: JUHA-PEKKA, BORN 1962, AND SANNA-MAIJA, BORN 1964.
HOUSTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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